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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Yasuhiro Ambiru

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EXAMINER

GEBRIEL, SELAM T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2622

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

03/04/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/812,985

Applicant(s)

AMBIRU ET AL.

Examiner

SELAM T. GEBRIEL

Art Unit

2622

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 March 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 03/31/04 and 05/31/06

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Page 7, Line 13, "objective lens **C**" should be replaced with "objective lens **11**". Applicant is also advised to make sure to correct any inconsistency between the figures and the specification.

Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: The drawing on figure 1 should be labeled as "10" in order to make it consistent with Page 5, Line 8 where the applicant described all the elements of Figure 1 as a network camera unit 10. Applicant discloses a camera unit C on Page 7, Line 8, the examiner could not recognized as to what the applicant is referring to since camera unit C is not shown in figure 1. Applicant is advised to either make a correction on Figure 1 or specification to make things clear and also correct any inconsistency between the figures and the specification. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37

CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 – 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(b) as being unpatentable over Oie (6,188,431 B1) in view of Nishi (6,249,313).

5. Regarding claim 1, Oie disclose an image pickup apparatus (Figure 1, Element 1a) comprising:

An image pickup section (Figure 2, Element 21 and 7, CCD and Lens, Respectively) which photographs an image and outputs its image information (Col 3, Line 58 – 60);

A recording section (Figure 2, Element 31, Col 4, Line 5 – 6) which stores the image information from the image pickup section;

A communicating section (Figure 2, Element 45 and 47, Col 4, Line 36 – 41) which transmits the image information from the image pickup section (Figure 2, Element

21 and 7, CCD and Lens, Respectively) to an external unit (Figure 1, Element 1b);

A control section (Figure 2, Element 39) which, when the determining section determines that the image information should be stored in the external unit, transmits a request signal for the dispersion processing to the external unit through the communicating section and if an acceptance signal about the dispersion processing is received from the external unit, have the image information transmitted to the external unit (Col 5, Line 50 – 67 to Col 6, Line 1 – 45).

Oie does not clearly disclose a determining section which determines which the image information from the image pickup section is stored in the recording section or stored in the external unit through the communicating section as a dispersion processing;

Nishi discloses a determining section (Memory selection switch) which determines which the image information from the image pickup section is stored in the recording section or stored in the external unit through the communicating section as a dispersion processing (Figure 1, Element 13, "Memory selecting switch, Col 10 Line 4 – 7, and Abstract);

Therefore it would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Oie with Nishi determining section (Memory selection switch) which determines whether the image picked up is stored in recording section of the camera or stored in external unit. The motivation to do so is for transferring image between different cameras so as to make full use of the storage space, it is easily conceived by those skilled in the art to determine the storage position

of the image data directly based on the circumstances after generating the image data, thereby fulfilling the technical effect of reasonably allocating the storage space.

6. Regarding Claim 2, Oie in view of Nishi further disclose the image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the external unit which the control section intends to have the image information stored in is other image pickup apparatus for photographing images (Oie, Figure 3, Element 1b).

7. Regarding claim 3, Oie in view of Nishi further disclose the image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control section, when transmitting the image information to the external unit, generates and stores a list indicating that the image information is dispersed (Oie, Col 7, Line 43 - 58).

8. Regarding claim 4, Oie in view of Nishi further disclose the image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control section, when transmitting the image information to the external unit, generates and stores a list information indicating that the image information is dispersed and containing at least one of identification information about the image information and identification information about the external unit which is a dispersion destination of the image information (Oie, Col 7, Line 43 - 58 and Col 5, Line 50 - 67 to Col 6, Line 1 - 45).

9. Regarding claim 5, Oie in view of Nishi further disclose the image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control section, when transmitting the image information to the external unit, attaches at least one of identification information about the image information and identification information about the external unit which is the dispersion destination of the image information to the image information as a header for transmission (Oie, Col 7, Line 43 – 58 and Col 5, Line 50 – 67 to Col 6, Line 1 – 45).

10. Regarding 6, Oie in view of Nishi further disclose the image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control section, when receiving a request signal for the dispersion processing from other image pickup apparatus, stores transmitted image information in the recording section (Oie, Col 7, Line 20 – 28).

11. Regarding claim 7, Oie in view of Nishi further disclose the image pickup apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the control section, when receiving a request signal for the dispersion processing from other image pickup apparatus, determines whether or not the image information can be stored in the recording section and if it is determined that the image information can be stored, transmit an acceptance signal about the dispersion processing to the other image pickup apparatus and further stores the transmitted image information in the recording section (Oie, Col 7, Line 43 – 58 and Col 6, Line 46 – 67 to Col 7, Line 1 – 28).

12. Regarding claim 8, Oie in view of Nishi further disclose the image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control section, when receiving a read-out request signal about the image information from other unit through the communicating section, retrieves list information about the dispersion processing and if image information which should be read out is found, so controls to collect the image information from an external unit of the dispersion destination and transmit to the other unit (Oie, Col 6, Line 46 – 67 to Col 7, Line 1 -28).

13. Regarding claim 9, Oie in view of Nishi further disclose the image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control section, when receiving a read-out request signal for the image information from other unit, retrieves identification information about the image information corresponding to the request signal from identification information of image information in list information about the dispersion processing executed before and if such identification information is found, so controls to collect the image information according to identification information about the external unit and transmit to the other unit (Oie, Col 7, Line 43 – 58 and Col 6, Line 46 – 67 to Col 7, Line 1 – 28).

14. Regarding claim 10, Oie in view of Nishi further disclose the image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the control section, when receiving a request signal for collection of image information stored in the recording section through the dispersion processing from other image pickup apparatus through the communicating

section, reads out a corresponding to image information from the recording section and transmits to the other image pickup apparatus (Oie, Col 6, Line 46 – 67 to Col 7, Line 1 – 28).

15. Regarding 11, Oie discloses an information processing method for an image pick device (Col 3, Line 58 – 60, Figure 2, Element 21 and 7, CCD and Lens, Respectively) having a recording section (Figure 2, Element 31, Col 4, Line 5 – 6) which records photographed image and a communicating section (Figure 2, Element 45 and 47, Col 4, Line 36 – 41) which transmits/receives an image, the method comprising:

Photographing an image and outputting image information (Col 3, Line 58 – 60);
determining which the photographed image information should be stored in the recording section or an external unit through the communicating section as a dispersion processing;

When an acceptance signal about the dispersion processing is received from the external unit, so controlling to transmit the image information to the external unit (Col 5, Line 50 – 67 to Col 6, Line 1 – 45).

Oie failed to clearly disclose determining that the image information is to be stored in the external unit, transmitting a request signal for the dispersion processing to the external unit through the communicating section;

Nishi discloses determining (Using a memory selection switch) that the image information is to be stored in the external unit, transmitting a request signal for the

dispersion processing to the external unit through the communicating section (Figure 1, Element 13, "Memory selecting switch, Col 10 Line 4 – 7, and Abstract).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Oie with Nishi determining section (Memory selection switch) which determines whether the image picked up is stored in recording section of the camera or stored in external unit. The motivation to do so is for transferring image between different cameras so as to make full use of the storage space, it is easily conceived by those skilled in the art to determine the storage position of the image data directly based on the circumstances after generating the image data, thereby fulfilling the technical effect of reasonably allocating the storage space.

16. Regarding claim 12, Oie in view of Nishi further disclose the information processing method according to claim 11, wherein the external unit in which the image information is to be stored is other image pickup apparatus which photographs an image (Oie, Figure 3, Element 1b).

17. Regarding claim 13, Oie in view of Nishi further disclose the information processing method according to claim 11, wherein, when the image information is transmitted to the external unit, list information indicating that the image information is dispersed is generated and stored under the control (Oie, Col 7, Line 43 - 58).

18. Regarding claim 14, Oie in view of Nishi further disclose the information processing method according to claim 11, wherein, when the image information is transmitted to the external unit, a list information indicating that the image information is dispersed and containing at least one of identification information about the image information and identification information about the external unit which is a dispersion destination of the image information is generated and stored under the control (Oie, Col 7, Line 43 – 58 and Col 5, Line 50 – 67 to Col 6, Line 1 – 45).

19. Regarding claim 15, Oie in view of Nishi further disclose the information processing method according to claim 11, wherein, when the image information is transmitted to the external unit, at least one of identification information about the image information and identification information about the external unit which is the dispersion destination of the image information is attached to the image information as a header for transmission (Oie, Col 7, Line 43 – 58 and Col 5, Line 50 – 67 to Col 6, Line 1 – 45).

20. Regarding claim 16, Oie in view of Nishi further disclose the information processing method according to claim 11, wherein, when a request signal for the dispersion processing is received from other image pickup apparatus; transmitted image information is stored in the recording section under the control (Oie, Col 7, Line 43 – 58 and Col 5, Line 50 – 67 to Col 6, Line 1 – 45).

21. Regarding claim 17, Oie in view of Nishi further disclose the information processing method according to claim 11 wherein, when a request signal for the dispersion processing is received from other image pickup apparatus, whether or not the image information can be stored in the recording section is determined and if it is determined that the image information can be stored, an acceptance signal about the dispersion processing is transmitted to the other image pickup apparatus and further the transmitted image information is stored in the recording section (Oie, Col 7, Line 43 – 58 and Col 5, Line 50 – 67 to Col 6, Line 1 – 45).

22. Regarding claim 18, Oie in view of Nishi further disclose the information processing method according to claim 11, wherein, when a read-out request signal about the image information is received from other unit is retrieved, list information about the dispersion processing through the communicating section and if image information which should be read out is found, it is so controlled to collect the image information from an external unit of the dispersion destination and transmit to the other unit (Oie, Col 7, Line 43 – 58 and Col 6, Line 46 – 67 to Col 7, Line 1 – 28).

23. Regarding claim 19, Oie in view of Nishi further disclose the information processing method according to claim ii, wherein, when a read-out request signal for the image information is received from other unit, identification information about the image information corresponding to the request signal is retrieved from identification information of image information in list information about the dispersion processing

executed before and if such identification information is found, it is controlled to collect the image information according to identification information about the external unit and transmit to the other unit (Oie, Col 7, Line 43 – 58 and Col 6, Line 46 – 67 to Col 7, Line 1 – 28).

24. Regarding claim 20, Oie in view of Nishi further disclose the information processing method according to claim 11, wherein, when a request signal for collection of image information stored in the recording section through the dispersion processing is received from other image pickup apparatus, a corresponding image information is read out from the recording section and transmitted to the other image pickup apparatus (Oie, Col 7, Line 43 – 58 and Col 6, Line 46 – 67 to Col 7, Line 1 – 28).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SELAM T. GEBRIEL whose telephone number is (571)270-1652. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7.30am-5.00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vu NgocYen can be reached on 571-272-7320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

S.G.
Wednesday, February 27, 2008

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